

Superfast charges

†*249. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that no superfast charges are levied upto 325 kms.;
- (b) if so, since when and if not, the reasons therefor and by when it would be put into effect; and
- (c) the number of trains likely to become ordinary as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) Superfast surcharge is not levied only on season ticket holders travelling by those superfast trains whose total journey is less than 325 kms. from originating to destination station. All other passengers travelling by these trains are being levied Superfast surcharge.

- (b) This has been put into effect from 1.9.2006.
- (c) No train has been rendered ordinary train because of this decision.

Survey for decreasing agricultural land

†*250. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the area of agricultural land is decreasing constantly in the country;
- (b) whether any survey has been conducted with regard to constantly decreasing agricultural land and farmers;
- (c) if so, the details of the surveys conducted during the years 1960-61, 1970-71, 1980-81, 1990-91 and 2000-01; and
- (d) the details of the steps being taken by Government to enhance agricultural production and to encourage farmers towards agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) According to National Sample Survey Organisation's (NSSO) report of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.